

NEWSLETTER

NYLC Invades the Capitol

A lesson in Nebraska history. A day of fun!



In August several NYLC members met at the Nebraska State Capitol for a tour and a lesson in our state's history. We also learned how laws get made in Nebraska.

Our tour included several pieces of art work and some of the

braver council members even took the elevator way up high to the Capitol's balcony to get a good look at Lincoln from above.

We wrapped up the day with Julia Sullivan of the Central Council talking about her recent self-advocacy experiences.

A Note from Kristi ...

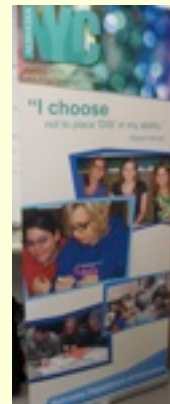
We have some changes in store with our council activities. I hope. Up until now we have focused so much on building our YOUTH-LED program into what YOU wanted it to be for yourselves and other young people to follow. We will be shifting gears in the coming months and meetings to start focusing more on ACTION!

What can we DO as a council to really make a difference?

Now we have a strong foundation and courageous young leaders who are committed to making a difference for other Nebraska youth.

Let's get to work!

-Kristi Berst



Contributors

CHRISTINA STOLP

Christina has been a member of our Eastern Nebraska YLC since the spring of 2010.

KASEY PESTEL



Kasey has been a part of NYLC member from the very beginning. She serves on the State Advisory council and leads the YLC in Northeast Nebraska.



STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The State Advisory Council would like to welcome three new members voted in on September 10, 2011: Addy Geier-Hunter, Haley Wagonner, and Clarissah Woten. Congratulations on this great accomplishment! The Advisory Council will be putting you all to work in no time!

The Advisory Council also began planning for the 2012 Summer Leadership Conference which will

outline the start of some new and exciting activities for the NYLC.

Advisory Council members will also be exploring some distance meeting options (i.e. Skype or webinars) to enhance their meeting experience while decreasing travel time to participate. More information coming soon.

EAST YLC

CHRISTINA STOLP

On Saturday, September 17th the East Council met at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion. The East YLC members who attended were Jamie, Christina, and Addy. We also had two new members Cindy and Bruce. At the beginning we went around the room and introduced ourselves so we could get to know one another.

We had a speaker named Mary Angus who works at the Nebraska's Advocacy Services. Mary talked about our right in voting in Nebraska. She stated that all registered voters in Nebraska have certain rights.

Here are some examples of a few of our rights that we learned. 1. The right to a ballot with written instructions on how to cast the ballot. 2. The right to obtain assistance while casting your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written. 3. The right to bring written materials into the voting booth to assist you as you cast the ballot. The group also learned about how you have a

right for accommodations if you need any while voting. Some accommodations include:

- Allowing a headset which allows voter with impaired hearing to listen to choices
- A sip/puff tube for voters who are not able to use touch screen or touch pad
- Option for larger font size on the ballot

If a voter is not able to make it out to the voting polls, they can request an absentee vote where they return their completed ballot in the mail. Mary taught us to decipher between two representatives in determining what their goal is in representing people with disabilities. This helped us better understand who we would want to vote to represent individuals like us.



Finally we did a workshop with Kristi called Steps to Self Determination. This required us to fill out a worksheet. We had to identify two strengths and one weakness about ourselves in these areas of physical, mental, emotional, social, and beliefs. We had to determine how we saw our own strengths and weaknesses, how others see them, how we view our ideal self, and how we can accept any areas that we cannot change.

Overall we came into the meeting not knowing much about our voting rights and all the accommodations that can be made available.

CENTRAL YLC

On September 24th, the Central YLC met at the Grand Island VR office for their fall meeting. Most of the meeting time was spent getting to know new council members, reviewing the by-laws, and working on a presentation and poster board for the upcoming Transition Agency Fair hosted by ESU 9. Of course a meeting wouldn't be a meeting without some clowning around for pictures!



NORTHEAST YLC

KASEY PESTEL



The Northeast Nebraska Council had our first meeting on October 1st. Our group is made up of only five members, but we can make some great decisions fast. First of all, I, as facilitator, went over the by-laws that the statewide council

made a couple of years ago. We discussed how our group fit into the realm of all the councils.

I thought it was important to establish goals that want to be accomplished in the future. The group was asked to think of some goals and activities, and I wrote them on a sheet of large paper. We discussed that it was eminent that our group gives presentations in high schools and/or elementary schools. We want to reach out to Northeast Nebraska. This is the best way to do so.

After some discussion, we decided that we would have our first presentation at Alecia's school. We joined our ideas to establish what we wanted to present on. Members began to get excited as the ideas rolled out.

Overall, our first meeting was a success. We can't wait to present, and inevitably change the schools where we grew up. We all know what it is like to be a part of these communities, and now it is time to make our impact.

Winter Meeting ~ Saturday, December 3rd



ALL NYLC members from each of the councils are invited to attend! Along with our meeting we will have a FUN holiday party!

If you would like to participate in a White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a \$10 wrapped gift to the meeting.

Saturday, December 3rd

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

at

Grand Island VR Office

3335 West Capital Avenue

See you there!

Calendar

October 18, 2011

NYLC presents at Employment Workshop in Omaha

November 16, 2011

NYLC booth at the ESU 9 Transition Fair in Hastings

December 3, 2011

NYLC Holiday Meeting in Grand Island

January 19, 2011

NYLC presents in Lincoln

January 26, 2011

NYLC presents in Millard

2012 meeting dates will be posted soon

NYLC

6949 S. 110th Street

Omaha, NE 68128

NYLC member

Address

Anytown, NE ZIP